U.D.C
MYNYDDISLWYN, MON.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1939.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

MR. CHAIRMAN,

MRS. HARROLD AND GENTLEMEN.

In submitting my Annual Report for 1939 I am pleased to say that the general health in your area has been good and that there has been a substantial increase in the Birth Rate.

The death Rate was slightly increased dur chiefly to an increase in the number of deaths under one year of age and between 45 and 65 years - the latter due largely to an increase in respiratory diseases which may be attributed to the exessive rainfall especially during the winter months.

There was an increase of two in the number of Tuberculosis cases reported, making twenty four for the year, while the number of deaths from Cancer showed an increase of two.

I am pleased to say that there was reduction of seven in the number of cases of Diphtheria and only one fatal case.

There were only nine cases of Scarlet Fever, and all of a mild type.

There were fifteen cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, nine of which received Hospital treatment and all recovered except one. The remaining six were found to be "carriers" and the necessary measures were taken.

HOUSING

Owing to the exceptional circumstances at present Housing remains the same as last year.

I am glad to take this opportunity to thank Mr. James, Sanitary Inspector, and the other Officials of the Council for their help and co-operation, also the Medical Staffs of the County Council and of the local Tuberculosis Clinic for their assistance during the year. Also Mr. Goddard, Engineer to the Abertillery and District

ater Board for information supplied.

The feeding of the School Children is carried out only in the South Ward.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	5,415
Population 1939 (estimated)	13,210
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books.	3,215
Rateable Value.	£47,562
Product of Penny Rate	£168:

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	M	F
Live Births - Legitimate	142	101
Illegitimate	4	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		18,7
Deaths		130
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		9,7
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-		
All infants per 1,000 live births.		100.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.		102.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		NIL
Deaths from Cancer - all ages.		14
Deaths from Measles. - all ages.		1

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

   A. Part-time Medical Officer of Health: C.G. Mackay, M.B,

   B. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector: P.S. James, A.R.S.I., M.S.I

2.	A Laboratory Facilities.	County Council
	B. Ambulance Facilities.	An Ambulance is provided by private contract and used f general purposes other than for the removal of Infectio Diseases.
	C Nursing in the Home.	District Nursing Associatio
	D Clinic and Treatment Centres	County Council
	E Hospitals: Public and Voluntary	No change from previous rep

WATER SUPPLY.

The main source of water supply, which is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board, has again, on the whole (during the year) been excellent in quality, and fairly plentiful.

It is pleasing to note that with the exception of a few isolated places, the whole district is supplied with water from the Board's main.

The Engineer to the Board takes samples at regular intervals and ensures a safe supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A portion of the Sewer at James Street, Argoed was relaid and a new Sewer was constructed at Brynheulog (near Nailor's Arms.)

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been taken in relation to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, of course, the coal-dust: and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in all the built-up areas are provided with water-closets. There remains, however, a few outlying portions of hthe area, and houses on the hill-tops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers: these are provided with pail-clos

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There is very little change to report on the collection of refuse from that of last year, only to add that the regularity has been maintained and satisfaction given.

On the disposal of refuse, however, I am pleased to report that the Council was able to bring about a centralised system of tipping and control and by so doing the unsightliness of crude tipping has been done away with and there is less likehood for the harbouring of vermin.

When ever there is earth or soil available in the District it is transported to the refuse tip and used as an intermediate layer or for covering, according to depth of the tip.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a)	Number of Inspections made during the year.	975
(b)	Number of Notices served - Informal	150
	Number of Notices served - Statutory	6

SHOPS

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the Shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934 and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respects in compliance, letters were sent to the occupiers and the matters were immediately attended to.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A number of complaints were received during the year from stack boilers and rubbish-tips at Nine Mile Point Colliery. Informal action was taken and the nuisance was considerably reduced.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the district are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the respective Water Boards.

The Sanitary Conveniences and the Schools themselves are of modern construction; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and fairly high standard of cleanliness and order is maintained in and about the Schools.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH.

Extensive facilities are provided for sun-bathing and games.

Facilities are also provided for Juvenile instruction and 9 schools received instruction during the past year. The total number attendances of pupils who received such instruction was 2,418 and a large number acquired a certificate of proficiency. The total numbers of bathers and spectators were as follows:-

Bathers (Adults)	5,855
Bathers (Juvenile) including School Classes	9,309
Spectators (Adults)	2,354
Spectators (Juvenile)	1,319
Total	18,837

HOUSING.

1. Inspectionof Dwelling-Houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	321
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	670
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	16
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	21
3. (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	2
4. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation.	148

2.Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

1. (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers	118

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	NIL
BProceedings under Public Health Acts:	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	6
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	NIL
C Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1836 NIL

HOUSING ACT, 1936 Part 1V - OVERCROWDING.

Two houses became overcrowded as a result of children attaining the ages of one and ten years and additions to the famil

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

(a) MILK - The Sanitary Inspector has been visiting the Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds within the area during the year and many improvements were effected as a result of such visits. Special effort has been made during the year to take samples of Milk from all producers and retailers in the district (in conjuncti with the County Health Department) for the purpose of Bacteriologic Examination.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS - The inspections of meat has been somewhat reduced since the transference of the wholesale Slaughter House, but there are still a fair number of animals being slaughtered in the small slaughter-houses in the district.

Visits are frequently made to the Shops, Bakehouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared and sold.

Vans and Carts used for the hawking of the various foods stuffs too, and are carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

MEATS AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lam's	Pigs
Number Killed if Known	59	65	72	935	522
Number inspected.	59	65	72	935	522
ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole Carcases condemned	0	0	0	4	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	15	28	0	103	24
Percentage of number affected with disease other than T.B.	25,4	44.4	9	11.01	5.1
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole Carcases condemned	2	3	0	0	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	18	0	0	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	11.8	33.3	0	0	2.1

(c) ADULTERATION - The Council is not the Foods and Drugs Authority.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS - All examinations under this heading are carried out at the Laboratories of the County Council.

(e) NUTRITION - No special work has been carried out by your Health Department under this heading.

ROAD ACCIDENTS.

Fatal Accidents	1
Accidents involving serious injuries.	5
Accidents involving slight injuries.	12

INQUESTS.

There were 10 inquests held on persons residing in your area:- seven were coal-miners, one domestic, one Insurance Agent and a Boy aged five months.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to the Hospitals namely - Allt-yr-yn Isolation Hospital Newport, Bedwellty Isolation Hospital: and Monmouth Isolation Hospit

The number of cases of each disease that necessitated removal can be seen in the prepared table (Notifiable Diseases)

A supply of Diphthera Anti-Toxin and Streptocide for puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department of the Council Offices and the medical practitioners in the district make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teacher of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and beddings are fumigated by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE.	TOTAL	HOSPITAL CASES.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever.	9	-	-
Diphtheria.	44	16	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	7	-	-
Erysipelas.	3	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	15	9	1
Whooping-cough.	2	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS - No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS - No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following:-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age,	Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	3	3	-	4	1	2	-	1
25	1	2	-	1	2	-	1	-
35	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	8	4	6	3	3	2	1

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the house to ascertain the conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where patients are removed to Hospital or Sanatorium the Inspector again pays a visit and causes the premises to be fumigated and in some cases walls are stripped, and bedding etc. destroyed. In the absence of a Steam Disinfector, bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1939.

Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN

Population.	Nett Births.		Total deaths registered in the District.	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate.
13,210.	248	18.7	130	9.7

Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
Non-Residents registered in the District.	Residents not in the District	Under 1 yr.		At all ages	
		Number,	Rate	Number	Rate
NIL	24	25	100.8	154	11.6